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January 31, 2011

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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, High Cost Universal Service
Support
CC Docket No. 96-45
WC Docket No. 05-337

Connect America Fund
WC Docket No. 10-90

National Broadband Plan
GN Docket No. 09-51

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On January 28, 2011, Thomas Navin and the undersigned, on behalf of the Puerto Rico Telephone Company, Inc. ("PRT"), met with Josh Gottheimer, Senior Counselor to Chairman Genachowski. PRT representatives discussed the Commission's recent *Sixth Broadband Deployment Report* and the finding that more Americans without access to broadband live in Puerto Rico than in any other U.S. state or territory. We explained that the high costs of serving an insular area combined with the exceedingly poor population on the island made deployment of broadband in Puerto Rico generally uneconomic in most areas without federal funding. PRT representatives noted that the company has offered two solutions to this problem, both of which are pending before the agency. The first is the establishment of a non-rural insular fund for high cost loop support, as requested in a petition for reconsideration in WC Docket No. 05-337. The second is a pilot program for funding broadband deployment through competitive procurements, which PRT proposed in its comments in response to the Connect America Fund NOI/NPRM in WC Docket No. 10-90. Representatives of PRT urged the Commission to move forward swiftly with either or both of these alternatives to enable the people of Puerto Rico to access telecommunications and information services currently enjoyed by most Americans in the mainland U.S. Doing so is necessary for Puerto Rico's future and is required by the Communications Act.



Ms. Marlene H. Dortch

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Please direct any questions regarding this filing to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Nancy J. Victory

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cc: Josh Gottheimer